

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING MR. AND MRS. BETTERTON ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Betterton on their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Erby Wayne Betterton was born on February 28, 1948 in Decatur, Alabama. Four years later, Valeri Lynn Dunaway was born on May 21, 1952, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

While on leave from his duties in the U.S. Army, Wayne met Valeri through his brother. After Wayne finished his three-year commitment to the Army, he returned home and proposed to Valeri on her 18th birthday, which also happened to be the day she graduated from Butler High School. On August 01, 1971, Wayne and Valeri were married at West Huntsville Church of Christ.

Looking back over their life together, Wayne and Valeri recognize the many blessings they have experienced together.

For instance, Wayne served in the U.S. Army on the front lines of the Vietnam War and returned home safely. Upon returning home and completing his service, Wayne went to work as a tire builder with Dunlop Tire Company. Meanwhile, Valeri worked in the food stamp office until 1975, when she and Wayne welcomed their first daughter into their home. Later, in 1979, Valeri had another little girl. By this time, Valeri chose to change her career to become a stay-at-home mother.

Later, Valeri returned to work as a state employee and retired after twenty-five years of service. Wayne retired after thirty-three and a half years at Dunlop, which is when the plant was closed.

Today, Wayne and Valeri are enjoying retirement by being heavily involved in their grandchildren's lives and their local church and community. One of their favorite past times is watching the Atlanta Braves.

Madam Speaker, Wayne and Valeri Betterton's marriage serves as a reminder to us all, that with unwavering commitment and perseverance, marriage is truly a wonderful blessing.

I wish Mr. and Mrs. Betterton the very best as they enjoy their fiftieth wedding anniversary and celebrate with their family.

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Community First Foundation as the 2020 Behind the Scenes award winner by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

For many decades, Community First Foundation has done exceptional work in supporting Colorado nonprofits, but they showed particular leadership and commitment to our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community First Foundation was originally founded in 1975 as the Lutheran Medical Center Foundation. In these beginning years, they focused on fundraising efforts for the Lutheran Medical Center, a nonprofit hospital supporting the western suburbs of Denver. Today, they help donors with philanthropic planning, and support nonprofits with grants and resources in order to build resilient and connected communities across Jefferson County. The organization has seen incredible success in its initiatives, particularly in its founding and continued sponsorship of the annual Colorado Gives Day. Created in 2010, Colorado Gives Day is now the second-largest 24 hour day of giving in the nation, with more than \$419 million donated to Colorado nonprofits between 2010 and 2020. In recognition of this initiative, Community First Foundation was named the Outstanding Foundation of the Year by Ability Connection Colorado in 2014.

More recently, Community First Foundation served our community in exceptional ways through their efforts to strengthen and stabilize nonprofit organizations across Jefferson County during the COVID-19 pandemic. They established the Jefferson County Hope Fund to ensure the nonprofit community and government agencies serving Jefferson County could continue their services and response to the public health crisis. As of April 2020, they provided \$970,500 to 92 different nonprofits. Since then, they have disbursed three additional rounds of funding to aid in Jefferson County's recovery.

I applaud Community First Foundation for their incredible work and commitment to our community and congratulate them on being recognized as the Behind the Scenes Award winner by the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SORAYA CORREA, CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Soraya Correa, the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Chief Procurement Officer, upon her retirement from Federal service.

Ms. Correa has been a dedicated public servant for more than four decades. She started her Federal career as a clerk typist for construction contracts in 1980 and rose through the ranks to serve in leadership positions at several different agencies, including the General Services Administration and the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration. Ms. Correa has been with DHS since its inception. She served as an executive within DHS's Office of Procurement Operations, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services before she was appointed Chief Procurement Officer of the Department in January 2015.

Ms. Correa has been a driving force in maturing DHS's management functions and has forged a reputation as one of the Federal government's most innovative procurement leaders. She has led several initiatives at DHS focused on building a highly qualified acquisition workforce that is empowered to take smart risks to procure what the Department needs. For example, she created the Procurement Innovation Lab in March 2015 as a testbed for new acquisition techniques aimed at improving the Department's procurement process and saving taxpayer dollars. In 2016, Ms. Correa and her team were awarded the prestigious DHS Secretary's Award for Excellence for this effort.

As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I have come to appreciate Ms. Correa's steadfast commitment to fostering an open dialogue with industry and promoting opportunities for small, disadvantaged, and minority-owned businesses that face barriers to entering the Federal marketplace. Under her leadership, DHS has continued to earn an "A" grade on the Small Business Administration's Small Business Procurement Scorecard; a grade it has earned for a total of 11 years in a row.

Ms. Correa has received many accolades from both industry and government throughout her career, including the 2018 Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service. We thank Ms. Correa for her service to our country and wish her the very best in her retirement.

HONORING AUBREY ALVAREZ AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 6, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Aubrey Alvarez, the executive director of Eat Greater Des Moines, as Iowan of the Week. Since its founding in 2013, Aubrey and the Eat Greater Des Moines team have helped connect numerous nonprofit organizations, businesses, and community leaders to work to strengthen the food system in Des Moines.

Aubrey, who holds a degree in health and wellness management from the University of Northern Iowa and a Master of Public Administration degree from Drake University, has worked in various health and wellness positions throughout her professional career. Now, Aubrey works with the Eat Greater Des

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